

FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE
ABIDJAN BUREAU

MAB 3021
4 November 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, FBIS

THROUGH : Chief, Operations Group

SUBJECT : Monthly Report — Abidjan Bureau — October 1983

I. GENERAL

Ambassador Robert Miller arrived in Abidjan on the 21st to replace Ambassador Rawls, who retired in August. Ambassador Miller visited the bureau twice before the end of the month, on the 24th for a walk-through and an opportunity to meet U. S. and local employees, and on the 28th for a briefing on FBIS operations in Abidjan. He expressed pleasure with the range of services the bureau provides the Ivory Coast Government. On 3 November, after examining the bureau's daily file which is sent by courier to the DCM, the Ambassador requested his own copy of the file, which the bureau began providing on 4 November.

II. OPERATIONS

Monitorial/Editorial

1. Upper Volta continued to be the bureau's major focus of attention during October, and a record high of over 41,000 words was processed from Ouagadougou radio. Thomas Sankara, the new Upper Voltan leader, made a variety of speeches around the country, some charging "foreign" interests were smuggling in guns to bring down his new revolutionary councils, to oust sympathizers of the previous regime, and to create a variety of new organizations.

Bureau efforts to provide prompt coverage of Upper Voltan events evoked a welcome message from the new DCM at the U. S. Embassy in Ouagadougou, Robert M. Pringle, who wrote: "As a newcomer to West Africa, I'd like to add my endorsement to the numerous past expressions of appreciation for the excellent work done by FBIS. Your frequent and incredibly fast translations of policy relevant broadcasts are simply invaluable to us, all the more so considering the extent to which radio is used in this part of the world as a news-making medium, and the difficulty most of us have in extracting accurate versions of what is being said."

2. In Niamey, AFP in French reported on the 6th that automatic weapons fire had been heard the previous night near the presidency. An open watch was placed on poorly received Niamey radio, and at noon the prime minister announced that a coup attempt against Senyi Kountche, in Paris for the Vittel summit, had been foiled. Kountche subsequently returned to resume control of the country, praised those responsible for foiling the attempt and gave details of the plot, which he attributed to the ambitions of a few rather than to any foreign influences. Kountche's speech on the 7th was not monitorable on Niamey radio, but subsequently appeared in the Niamey paper LA SAHEL on the 10th, which

the bureau received and processed on the 14th. A special courier run carried early material on the coup attempt to the Ivorian Foreign Ministry.

3. Open watches were established on both Togo and Zaire in response to coup reports which turned out to be false. Africa No. 1 reported on the 18th that there were rumors of a coup in Togo and that President Eyadema had been receiving statements of support from various groups. The bureau processed several of these reports, in which Eyadema warned against "foreign ideologies." Subsequently BBC's Africa Service, citing Reuter, reported a coup attempt had taken place. In a message to the bureau, the U. S. Embassy in Togo refuted these reports and advised that the press reports of coup rumors were exaggerated. The bureau also responded on the 4th to a BBC alert of a possible coup in Zaire, which the U. S. Embassy in Kinshasa also subsequently debunked.

4. Paris Diplomatic Information Service provided high-level reaction to events in Lebanon and Grenada. On the 24th, 25th and 27th, the bureau processed sympathetic statements by Prime Minister Mauroy and President Mitterrand on the Beirut bombings, but on the 26th the French Government issued a statement on Grenada saying that "no state or group of states have the right to intervene militarily on another state's territory without being formally invited."

III. ADMINISTRATION

A. Personnel

1. Monitors [redacted] received PSI's during October, to FSN 10/4, 10/4 and 10/3 respectively.

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2. Chief Monitor [redacted] who had been tentatively planning to retire at the end of 1983, has decided to remain on board until about the end of May 1984. The bureau is now screening candidates to replace him, and several promising applicants have surfaced. We hope to select a replacement shortly, who we hope to bring on board early in 1984 so [redacted] can handle the bulk of initial training.

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B. Buildings and Grounds

The Ivorian PTT completed most of the work necessary to provide the bureau with a direct telephone line to the Embassy during the month. The direct line will greatly simplify bureau-Embassy communications. The line has been installed and at this time can be used by bureau employees to phone the Embassy, but a separate bell must be installed before the bureau can receive calls on the direct line.

IV. VISITS

A. Henry Krieger, director of VOA's French Service, visited the bureau on 18 October to discuss the content of the Pan-African News Agency file, in which VOA is interested as a source of feature material on Africa.

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B. [redacted] a former FBIS editor, visited the bureau
on 2 November. [redacted] now lives in [redacted]
[redacted] They were in Abidjan
for several days to take part in a sailing regatta.

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[redacted]
Chief, Abidjan Bureau

Attachment:
Monthly Production Report

cc: Chief, Swaziland Bureau
Deputy Chief, London Bureau

♦ ABIDJAN BUREAU PRODUCTION REPORT FOR OCTOBER 83

TOTALS FROM ALL SOURCES:

TOTAL PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH:	236,580
TOTAL NON-PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH:	14,440
TOTAL NUMBER OF PUBLISHABLE ITEMS FILED DURING MONTH:	625

BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
7,437	30,360	115

II. INPUT OF REGULAR COVERAGE:
(MINUTES OR ISSUES PER WEEK)

III. OUTPUT FROM ALL SOURCES:

(PUBLISHABLE WORDS PER MONTH)

ANGOLA		
LUANDA DOMESTIC SERVICE IN		
ENGLISH	520	
LUANDA DOMSTIC SERVICE IN		
FRENCH	370	
LUANDA ANGOP IN		
PORTUGUESE		
LUANDA ANGOP IN		
FRENCH		7,350

BENIN		
COTONOU DOMESTIC SERVICE IN		
FRENCH	1,240	
COTONOU EHUZU IN		
FRENCH		

CAMEROON		
YAOUNDE DOMESTIC SERVICE IN		
ENGLISH	450	
YAOUNDE DOMESTIC SERVICE IN		
FRENCH	140	
CAMEROON TRIBUNE IN		
FRENCH		
CAMEROON TRIBUNE IN		
ENGLISH		

CONGO		
BRAZZAVILLE DOMESTIC SERVICE IN		
FRENCH	1,030	
BRAZZAVILLE BULLETIN QUOTIDIEN		
IN FRENCH		
BRAZZAVILLE ETUMBA IN		
FRENCH		

CHAD		
(CLANDESTINE) BARDAI CHADIAN		
NATIONAL RADIO	19,680	

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	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLICA- TIONS
FRANCE			
PARIS AFP IN ENGLISH		24,750	
PARIS AFP IN FRENCH		16,170	
PARIS DIPLOMATIC INFORMATION SERVICE IN ENGLISH			
PARIS DIPLOMATIC INFORMATION SERVICE IN FRENCH		27,960	
GABON			
LIBREVILLE DOMESTIC SERVICE IN FRENCH	890		
LIBREVILLE L'UNION IN FRENCH			
LIBREVILLE AFRICA NO.1 IN FRENCH	3,530		
GHANA			
ACCRA DOMESTIC SERVICE IN ENGLISH	21,590		
ACCRA INTERNATIONAL SERVICE IN ENGLISH			
ACCRA GHANAIAN TIMES IN ENGLISH			
ACCRA DAILY GRAPHIC IN ENGLISH			
ACCRA WEEKLY SPECTATOR IN ENGLISH			
ACCRA THE MIRROR IN ENGLISH			

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	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLICA- TIONS
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GUINEA			
CONAKRY DOMESTIC SERVICE IN FRENCH	5,030		
CONAKRY HOROYA IN FRENCH			
IVORY COAST			
ABIDJAN DOMESTIC SERVICE IN FRENCH	1,430		
ABIDJAN FRATERNITE MATIN IN FRENCH			810
LIBERIA			
MONROVIA RADIO ELWA IN ENGLISH	3,740		
MONROVIA DOMESTIC SERVICE IN ENGLISH	4,880		
MONROVIA EXPRESS IN ENGLISH			
MONROVIA LIBERIAN INAUGURAL IN ENGLISH			
MONROVIA NEW LIBERIAN IN ENGLISH			
MONROVIA THE SUND PEOPLE IN ENGLISH			
MALI			
BAMAKO DOMESTIC SERVICE IN FRENCH	2,840		
BAMAKO L'ESSOR IN FRENCH			
MAURITANIA			
NOUAKCHOTT DOMESTIC SERVICE IN FRENCH	2,920		
NOUAKCHOTT CHAAB IN FRENCH			
NIGER			
NIAMEY DOMESTIC SERVICE IN FRENCH	4,780		
NIAMEY LE SAHEL IN FRENCH			2,310
NIAMEY SAHEL HEBDO IN FRENCH			

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	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLICA- TIONS
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NIGERIA

LAGOS DOMESTIC SERVICE IN ENGLISH	7,140		
LAGOS INTERNATIONAL SERVICE IN ENGLISH	1,810		
KADUNA DOMESTIC SERVICE IN ENGLISH			
NIGERIAN NEWS AGENCY (NAN) IN ENGLISH		5,170	
CALABA DOMESTIC SERVICE IN ENGLISH			
IBADAN DOMESTIC SERVICE IN ENGLISH			

SENEGAL

DAKAR DOMESTIC SERVICE IN FRENCH	3,740		
DAKAR LE SOLEIL IN FRENCH			2,060
DAKAR PANA IN ENGLISH			
DAKAR PANA IN FRENCH		11,700	

SIERRA LEONE

FREETOWN DOMESTIC SERVICE IN ENGLISH	840		
FREETOWN DAILY MAIL IN ENGLISH			

TOGO

LOME DOMESTIC SERVICE IN FRENCH	6,690		
TOGO NOUVELLE MARCHE IN FRENCH			

UPPER VOLTA

OUAGADOUGOU DOMESTIC SERVICE IN FRENCH	41,760		
OUAGADOUGOU L'OBSERVATEUR IN FRENCH			

ZAIRE

KINSHASA DOMESTIC SERVICE IN FRENCH	860		
KINSHASA AZAP IN FRENCH		400	
KINSHASA ELIMA IN FRENCH			
LUBUMBASHI MJUMBE IN FRENCH			

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